

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The office action indicated that Figures 3 and 4 were objected to because of the drawing titles "Figure 3" and "Figure 4" are missing from these drawings. Four replacement sheets of formal drawings, compliant with 37 CFR 1.121(d), are attached to replace the four sheets of drawings submitted with the application. No new matter has been added in the replacement drawings.

Attachments: 4 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1– 26 are pending in the instant patent application. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 have been amended. No new mater has been added in the abstract, drawings, or claims.

DRAWINGS37 CFR 1.211(d)

The office action indicated that the drawings were objected to and requested replacement drawings.

Applicants respectfully submit four sheets of formal replacement drawings. As noted above, the new drawing sheets are attached.

CLAIM REJECTIONS35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Matthews Jr. et al. (US 6457125), hereinafter referred to as Matthews, in view of Fletcher et al. (US 6009274), hereinafter referred to as Fletcher, and further in view of Richman et al. (US 5655148), hereinafter referred to as Richman.

Claims 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matthews, Fletcher, and Richman as applied to Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 respectively above, in view of Collins (US 5671355).

Claims 6-7, 13-14, and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matthews, Fletcher, and Richman as applied to Claims 1, 8, and 15 respectively above.

Applicants have reviewed the cited references, and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 1-26 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Matthews, Fletcher, Richman, and/or Collins, either alone or in combination.

The Examiner is respectfully directed to independent Claim 1, which recites a method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device comprising:

storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when

said first hardware configuration was received;

receiving a second hardware configuration over a network, wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a memory of said networked communications device;

performing a checksum operation on said second hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said second hardware configuration;

creating a timestamp associated with said second hardware configuration to indicate when said second hardware configuration was received; and

programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration, wherein said programming occurs in conjunction with a boot process initiation if said second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration, wherein said programmable logic unit is coupled with said network communications device via a removable card, and wherein said removable card is detachably attached to said networked communications device.

Currently amended claims 8, 15, and 22 recite similar limitations and were rejected with the same rationale. Claims 2-7 depend from currently amended independent Claim 1 and recite further limitations of the claimed invention. Claims 9-14 depend from currently amended independent Claim 8 and recite further limitations of the claimed invention. Claims 16-21 depend from currently amended independent Claim 15 and recite further limitations of the claimed invention. Claims 23-26 depend from currently amended independent Claim 22 and recite further limitations of the claimed invention.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Matthews does not teach or suggest a method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device that includes, "storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when

said first hardware configuration was received; receiving a second hardware configuration over a network, wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a memory of said networked communications device; performing a checksum operation on said second hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said second hardware configuration; creating a timestamp associated with said second hardware configuration to indicate when said second hardware configuration was received; and programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration, wherein said programming occurs in conjunction with a boot process initiation if said second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration, wherein said programmable logic unit is coupled with said network communications device via a removable card, and wherein said removable card is detachably attached to said networked communications device."

(emphasis added) as recited in Applicants' currently amended independent Claim 1.

Matthews discloses that a configuration can be downloaded, and stored (see e.g., col. 1 lines 44 — 50), but Mathews does not deal with any specific mechanism for determining which downloaded configuration to program into a Programmable Logic Device (PLD) that is coupled with said network communications device via a removable card detachably attached to said networked communications device. (emphasis added)

The Matthews reference is primarily concerned with encryption of configuration information (see e.g., col. 2 lines 28 —63). In contrast, the Applicants' invention as set forth in Claim I is concerned with programming a PLD that is coupled with said network communications device via a removable card detachably attached to said networked communications device in conjunction with a boot process initiation when a second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration. (emphasis added) Matthews, by contrast is silent, and does not teach or suggest programming a PLD that is coupled with said network communications device via a removable card detachably attached to said networked communications device. Consequently, the Matthews reference does not anticipate or render obvious the embodiments of the Applicants' invention as are recited in Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Fletcher does not cure the deficiencies of Mathews noted above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of Claim 1. Instead, Fletcher, like Matthews above, does not teach or suggest a method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device that includes, “storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when said first hardware configuration was received; receiving a second hardware configuration over a network, wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a memory of said

networked communications device; performing a checksum operation on said second hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said second hardware configuration; creating a timestamp associated with said second hardware configuration to indicate when said second hardware configuration was received; and programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration, wherein said programming occurs in conjunction with a boot process initiation if said second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration, wherein said programmable logic unit is coupled with said network communications device via a removable card, and wherein said removable card is detachably attached to said networked communications device." (emphasis added) as recited in Applicants' Claim 1.

In fact, the entire Collins reference is silent with respect to programming a PLD that is coupled with said network communications device via a removable card detachably attached to said networked communications device in conjunction with a boot process initiation when a second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration. Consequently, the combination of Matthews and Fletcher does not anticipate or render obvious the embodiments of the Applicants' invention as are recited in Claims 1,8,15, and 22.

Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Richman does not cure the deficiencies of Mathews noted above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of Claim

1. Instead, Richman, like Matthews above, does not teach or suggest a method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device that includes, “storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when said first hardware configuration was received; receiving a second hardware configuration over a network, wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a memory of said networked communications device; performing a checksum operation on said second hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said second hardware configuration; creating a timestamp associated with said second hardware configuration to indicate when said second hardware configuration was received; and programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration, wherein said programming occurs in conjunction with a boot process initiation if said second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration, wherein said programmable logic unit is coupled with said network communications device via a removable card, and wherein said removable card is detachably attached to said networked communications device.” (emphasis added) as recited in Applicants’ Claim 1.

In fact, the entire Collins reference is silent with respect to programming a PLD that is coupled with said network communications device via a removable card detachably attached to said networked communications device in conjunction with a boot process initiation when a second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more



recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration. Consequently, the combination of Matthews and Richman does not anticipate or render obvious the embodiments of the Applicants' invention as are recited in Claims 1,8,15, and 22.

Moreover, the Applicants respectfully submit that Collins does not cure the deficiencies of Mathews noted above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of Claim 1. Instead, Collins, like Mathews above, does not teach or suggest a method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device that includes, “storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when said first hardware configuration was received; receiving a second hardware configuration over a network, wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a memory of said networked communications device; performing a checksum operation on said second hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said second hardware configuration; creating a timestamp associated with said second hardware configuration to indicate when said second hardware configuration was received; and programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration, wherein said programming occurs in conjunction with a boot process initiation if said second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration, wherein said programmable logic unit is coupled with said network communications device via a

removable card, and wherein said removable card is detachably attached to said networked communications device,” (emphasis added) as recited in Applicants’ Claim 1. In fact, the entire Collins reference is silent with respect to programming a PLD that is coupled with said network communications device via a removable card detachably attached to said networked communications device in conjunction with a boot process initiation when a second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration. Consequently, the combination of Matthews and Collins does not anticipate or render obvious the embodiments of the Applicants’ invention as are recited in Claims 1,8,15, and 22.

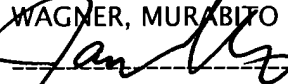
Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Matthews, Fletcher, Richman, and/or Collins, either alone or in combination, anticipates or renders obvious the present claimed invention as recited in Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22, and as such, Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully submit that the combination of Matthews, Fletcher, Richman, and/or Collins does not anticipate or render obvious the present claimed invention as is recited in Claims 2–7 dependent on Claim 1, Claims 9–14 dependent on Claim 8, Claims 16 –21 dependent on Claim 15, and Claims 23 – 26 dependent on Claim 22, and as such Claims 2–7, 9– 14, 16 – 21, and 23 –26 overcome the Examiner’s basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C.103 through dependence on allowable base claims, and are therefore in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims in the instant patent application are in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' designated representative at the below listed phone number.

Dated: 3/7, 2005

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